

The Federation of St. Giles and St.

John



Love to Learn: Learn to Love

Planting seeds of happiness and enjoyment.
Living and growing together.

Autumn Term 2026

Newsletter



Welcome back to the autumn term and a new school year. We all look forward to working with you again this year and we have another year of exciting learning opportunities planned this year.

Our Christian vision and values

Our Christian values for the term are: service, thankfulness, compassion and trust.

Curriculum Development

This year we have started by focusing on our teaching and learning policy. We have had a session led by an external adviser looking at how we can adapt our teaching strategies to meet the needs of our pupils.

We are going to focus on the importance of effective communication and language across the school. This begins in early years and is developed as the pupils progress through the school. We are going to focus on the quality of interactions between the adults and pupils and between the pupils themselves. We will use evidenced based approaches to plan and review our practice which will all help to improve outcomes for all pupils. We will be referring to something called the Shrec approach which stands for:

Sh - share attention

R - Respond

E - Expand

C - Conversation

This is explained in more detail in the leaflet attached to the newsletter.

We shall also be focusing on how we use scaffolds to support learning so that all pupils can access the learning with developing independence.

The early year's teams at both settings will be offering a session for parents and carers on phonics and reading.

Staffing

This term we have welcomed new members of staff to our Farlow and Kinlet teams. Mrs Matilda D'Angelo has joined the team at Farlow to collect school lunches and support lunchtime supervision.

At Kinlet we have welcomed Mrs Sarah Pritchard to the teaching team. She will be teaching Acorn class on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. On Wednesday there will be opportunity for Mrs Pritchard and Mrs Smith to meet and plan the learning provision for Acorn class. We have also welcomed Mrs Pauline Smith who has joined the team to collect and serve the lunches.

Governor News

In the coming term, governors will visit both schools and hold monitoring meetings to support each school's self-evaluation. These visits will complement internal reviews as well as feedback from local authority and diocesan advisers.

Safeguarding Updates

Benedict's Law

Benedict's Law is a set of mandatory national allergy safety requirements for schools in England that takes effect in September 2026. Our policies and training have been updated to ensure that we are all informed and equipped to deal with allergies.

All school staff must complete allergy awareness and emergency response training to recognise anaphylaxis symptoms. Emergency Medication: Schools must stock spare, in-date adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs) for emergency use on site.

Contact

If you have any worries or concerns do not hesitate to contact the school to make an appointment to speak to the teaching staff. We are normally available at the beginning of the school day or after school to follow up concerns raised so that we can resolve these by working in partnership with parents/carers.

Jewellery

As we have started a new academic year we would like to make everyone aware of the jewellery that can be worn in school.

- Pupils may wear a watch, but not one capable of taking photos on.
- Only one stud earring is permitted in each ear lobe, please note that this will have to be removed for P.E.
- Bracelets and rings are not to be worn.

This forms part of our Health and Safety policy in school to prevent injury and accidents to our pupils.

Leave of Absence in Term Time

The Leave of Absence Policy adopted by the Governing body of Federation of St. Giles and St. John is in line with the national guidelines which state that headteachers are only allowed to authorise any leave of absence when an application has been made in advance and circumstances are exceptional. The annual family holiday is not an exceptional circumstance.

Medical/Dental Appointments

If a pupil needs to attend a hospital, dentist or GP appointment, a letter must be provided to prove absence. If a pupil does attend the GP for any reason and is absent from school then parents can request a 'print screen' of the consultation from the doctor which they do not have to pay for, or an appointment card/signed compliments slip from the reception. This is necessary for safeguarding / attendance monitoring purposes.

Thank you.

Free School Meals

Please check to see whether you are entitled to free school meals.

<https://shropshire.gov.uk/free-school-meals/> if you need any help with the application process, please make enquiries at the school office. Children eligible for free school meals triggers additional funding for the school, which would benefit the children in many ways.

Labelling of Clothing

Please may we also remind parents of the importance of naming the children's clothing especially jumpers, fleeces and polo shirts which can get lost very easily.

After School Clubs

KS2 Football Club - Tuesdays starting 3rd November for 6 weeks - 3.20-4.20pm

All clubs need to be booked and paid for on ParentPay before the club starts.

Forest School Kit

Please can parents ensure that when the children are visiting the forest they wear the following kit:

Plenty of layers of clothing including long sleeved tops and long trousers (no shorts, jeans or short sleeved tops)

And bring in a labelled bag:

Waterproof coat and trousers;

Warm hat and gloves if weather gets cold

Wellies

Thank you.



Autumn Term

Curriculum Overview and Newsletter

Dear Parents and carers,

Welcome back to school!

We hope you have all enjoyed a wonderful summer and are feeling refreshed for the term ahead. It has been fantastic to welcome the children back to school and to begin another exciting academic year. With new classmates, new experiences, and the opportunity to take the next step in their learning journey, there is much for everyone to look forward to.

The autumn term is always a busy and enjoyable one. In the lead up to Christmas, we have a variety of events planned, including sporting activities, our Harvest Festival, educational visits, and school trips.

This year, the Oak Class team consists of Ms Watson, Mr Hollis, Ms Bence and Mrs Tildesley. We are looking forward to working together to support and encourage the children throughout the year. Our main topic this term is **Railways**, alongside a range of other exciting subjects, which are outlined below.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support. Children achieve their very best when home and school work closely together, so please feel free to contact us if you have any questions, concerns or information you would like to share.

The Oak Class Team 🌳

English

This term, we will use a range of exciting texts to develop reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills across Oak Class.

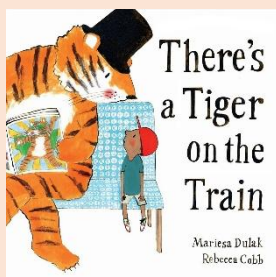
In Ms Watson's group, children will be reading *There's a Tiger on the Train* by Mariesa Dulak. The text will inspire a range of creative writing activities while also helping children develop their reading comprehension, vocabulary, and rhyme. Children will also revisit and recap any phonics sounds and patterns that need further consolidation through daily practice.

In Mr Hollis's group, the class will be reading *There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom* by Louis Sachar. Through exploring the novel's characters and themes, children will develop their comprehension skills and produce a range of written work, including character descriptions, diary entries and narrative writing.

Across both groups, we will continue to develop grammar, punctuation, spelling, and vocabulary through our reading and writing lessons. Our spelling work will focus on vocabulary linked to our class texts and topics, alongside individual targets where appropriate. Handwriting will be woven in to all our work through spelling practice.

On Fridays, the whole class will come together for English lessons linked to our **Railways** topic, using poetry and drama to develop creativity, confidence, and performance skills.

Reading remains a key focus in Oak Class. Children will take part in whole-class, guided and independent reading activities and should bring their reading books to school every day.



Maths

This term, children will continue to develop their confidence and understanding across all areas of mathematics. Lessons will focus on building fluency with number, developing mental calculation strategies and applying mathematical skills to a range of reasoning and problem-solving activities.

Ms Watson's group will begin the term by developing their understanding of place value before moving on to addition and subtraction, multiplication and division, and fractions.

Mr Hollis's group will build on their place value knowledge and strengthen their understanding of the four operations. They will also explore fractions and tackle increasingly challenging reasoning and problem-solving tasks.

Across Oak Class, children will be encouraged to explain their thinking, use mathematical vocabulary accurately and apply their learning in a variety of contexts. Regular arithmetic practice and times table work will help to develop confidence and ensure key skills become secure.

History and Geography

This term, our topic is **Railways**. We will begin by exploring the earliest railways and discovering how they developed over time. Children will learn about the impact railways had on Britain, including how they changed travel, trade, and communication, helping to shape the country we know today.

As part of our learning, we will investigate why the **Severn Valley Railway** is an important part of our local heritage and enjoy a visit to support our studies. We will also explore how geography influences railway routes, considering how physical features such as hills, rivers and valleys can affect where railways are built.

We will also be developing our understanding of map skills and global geography. Children will learn about the Prime Meridian, time zones and how these help us to measure time and locate places around the world.

Later in the term, we will broaden our learning to look at railways in America. Children will find out why railways were built in California and explore how the growth of the railroad transformed life in the United States, connecting communities, supporting industry, and opening up new opportunities for travel and settlement.

At home: Why not visit a local railway station, take a train journey, or share photographs and memories of railway travel?



Art

In Art, children will develop their painting skills through a unit on **Colour in Landscapes**. They will begin by exploring how to mix tints, tones, and shades before applying these techniques to landscape artwork. The children will practise sketching landscapes and studying the use of colour to create mood, depth, and atmosphere. Using these skills, they will plan and create their own landscape paintings. A visit to the local church will provide inspiration and opportunities to observe and record features of the landscape firsthand.

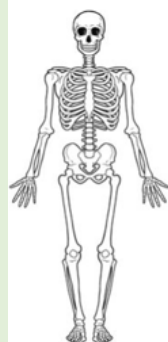
At home: Encourage your child to observe the colours in the natural environment around them and discuss how light and weather can change the appearance of a landscape.



Science

In **Ms Watson's group**, children will be learning about **Animal Nutrition and the Skeletal System**. They will explore the importance of nutrition and learn about the different food groups needed for a healthy, balanced diet. The children will investigate the diets of carnivores, herbivores and omnivores and consider how animals' diets can change throughout the year. They will also learn about the human skeleton, identifying major bones and discovering how muscles and joints work together to help us move. As part of their learning, they will classify different types of skeletons and carry out research and investigations to answer their own scientific questions.

In **Mr Hollis's group**, children will be studying the **Circulatory System**. They will learn about the role of the heart, blood, and blood vessels and how these work together to transport substances around the body. The children will investigate heart rate through practical activities and consider how exercise affects the body. They will also explore the importance of a healthy lifestyle, including diet and exercise, and learn about the effects that smoking, alcohol and drugs can have on the human body. Throughout the topic, children will use observation, research, and scientific enquiry skills to deepen their understanding of how the human body works.

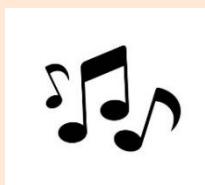


Design and Technology

After half term, we will swap Art for DT. In our Mechanical Monsters project, children will explore how mechanisms use pistons to create movement. They will investigate how pneumatic systems work, develop their designing and making skills, and create their own moving monster model. Throughout the project, children will test, evaluate, and improve their designs to ensure they work effectively.

Music

Music will continue to be taught by Kate Salt, our specialist music teacher from the Shropshire Music Service. This term, the children's learning will be linked to our Railways topic. They will explore music from different time periods, developing their listening and appraisal skills while learning about the features of these styles. Children will also build their understanding of rhythm through rhythm grids and note values, using these skills to create and perform railway-inspired musical patterns and compositions.



French

Using Language Angels, the children will begin the term with the '**Les Légumes**' (**Vegetables**) unit. Through songs, games and speaking activities, they will learn key French phonemes to help them develop accurate pronunciation and confidence when speaking French. They will also learn and practise vocabulary linked to different vegetables. After half term, children will move on to the '**Chez Moi**' (**My Home**) unit. They will learn how to describe where they live and talk about the rooms in their home, both orally and in writing. This unit will encourage children to build on previously learned vocabulary and grammar, using conjunctions and longer sentences to give more detailed and independent responses in French.



RE

In RE, children will explore the question, 'What does it mean if Christians believe God is holy and loving?' They will learn about Christian beliefs about God and consider how these beliefs influence the way Christians live their lives. Through stories, discussion and reflection, children will explore themes such as love, forgiveness, worship, and compassion.

Later in the term, children will study 'What does it mean to be a Muslim in Britain today?' They will learn about key Muslim beliefs and practices, including prayer, worship, and community life. The children will also explore what it is like to be a Muslim in modern Britain and develop their understanding and respect for different faiths and cultures.

Computing

This term, children will develop their computing skills through a range of Teach Computing units. We will learn about how computers connect and communicate with one another, then move on to creating patterns using Logo programming. Children will also use data loggers to support their science learning and take part in regular e-safety lessons to help them use technology safely and responsibly.

PSHE

This term, we will continue to follow the Jigsaw programme. We will begin with the unit *Being Me in My World*, where children will focus on becoming a successful class team and responsible school citizens. They will explore rights, responsibilities, and democracy, as well as understanding rewards and consequences. Together, we will create our Learning Charter and encourage children to take ownership of it, helping to build a positive, respectful, and supportive classroom environment.

After half term, we will move on to *Celebrating Difference*. Children will explore similarities and differences between people, learn about respect and inclusion, and develop their understanding of how to challenge stereotypes and prejudice. The unit encourages empathy, acceptance, and positive relationships, helping children to value diversity within our school and wider community.



Homework

Children should access TTRS or Numbots a minimum of three times a week, for a minimum 5 mins at a time. Children should be reading daily – either their school book or a book from home. Half termly tasks and projects will be set in addition – look out for information about these topic related projects! If you have any questions about homework, please get in touch.





Acorn Class Autumn Term 2026

We hope you and your family had a wonderful summer and enjoyed some well-deserved time together. As we begin this new school year, we are excited to welcome the children back and look forward to an engaging and inspiring term ahead. A big hello to our new Reception children who we can't wait to get to know. We look forward to working closely with you to support your child's journey this term.

English /Literacy

In English this term we will be reading lots of different stories and linking our work to them. We will be looking at how we structure sentences and in Y1/2 we will extend these sentences identifying nouns, verbs and adjectives. We will be writing labels and captions to match our stories such as 'Old Bear' along with many more. As the term goes on, we will be writing reports about our experiences. We will be linking our history topic to our English where we will be writing out timelines of how toys have changed over time and about events from the past.



Please help your child by reading with them as often as you can and log it in their diary.

Maths

Our maths this term is all about how numbers are represented and can be made. In YR we will be looking at numbers 1-5 and learning about what the numbers look like. We will be sorting and making set. In Y1&2 we will be learning about splitting numbers into sets of 10 and ones. We will be grouping and spotting patterns within numbers. The children will be exploring a range of equipment to help them.

Please practise counting, collecting amounts and spotting numbers in your environment.

History/Understanding the World

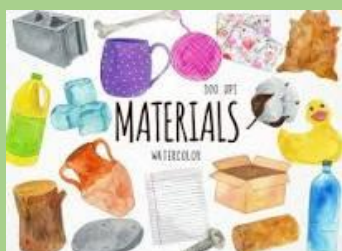
We will be learning about events from our past, by looking at timelines and how shops, toys and houses have changed over time. We hope to visit the Victorian Black Country Museum later in the term.

The children will be able to participate in a workshop all about old toys and compare them to toys we have today. We will learn about Queen Victoria/ Queen Elizabeth II which will align with our key concept of Monarchy.



Science/Understanding the world.

In science we will learn that objects are made from different materials. We will identify a range of everyday materials and their sources. Children will investigate the properties of materials and begin to recognise why certain materials are used for particular jobs. We will also learn about light and shadows.



Art/Expressive Arts and Design

This term we will be learning to draw, paint and collage. We will be looking at colour mixing and how we can create different effects on our work. As part of the books that we look at in English, we will think about the illustrations and how they can help us to tell a story. We will look at the work of different artists and try out some of their techniques. We will learn about the work of LS Lowry later in the term.



D&T/Expressive Arts and Design

Later in the term as part of a D&T we will be designing a Christmas decoration. The children will be looking at existing designs to draw ideas for their own work. The children will explore textiles and how they can be used to create beautiful things. At the end of the project, the children will evaluate their finished piece.



Computing

We will be looking at technology around us. We will be taking photographs across the other curriculum areas. Throughout the term will talk to the children about staying safe online including age-appropriate gaming and videos.



RE/Understanding the World

In RE we will be thinking about special places in our school and wider community. We will reflect on being special and think about belonging. E.g. family, groups etc. We will look at the creation story from the Bible and learn about Harvest and what it means. We will be learning about Islam and what it is like to be a Muslim. In worship we will be thinking about the Value Service.



Music/Expressive Arts

Mrs Salt will be teaching the children all about different un-tuned instruments. We will learn about loud and quiet sounds. We will sing a range of songs including some from other countries.



PE/Physical Development

In PE we will start the term by going swimming at Ludlow swimming pool. The children will be learning different multi – sports. We will be visiting Lacon Childe School for various events with other local schools.



Geography/ Understanding the world.

We will be learning about our local area and the UK. We will learn where the four countries of the UK are located. We will also be looking at our school grounds and making maps. This will align with our concept of settlement.



PSHE

In PSHE we will be learning about rules in school. We will be linking our work to the value, respect and how we treat others. We will celebrate ourselves and think about what it means to be in 'my world'. We will then be thinking about ourselves and how we are unique. We will celebrate our differences as well as our similarities.

